



Volunteer Internships at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Through the Natural Resource Management Program and The Great Lakes Research and Education Center

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore contains exceptional biological diversity resulting from the combination of complex geological processes and convergence of major North American life zones. The park is comprised of over 15,000 acres of dunes, oak savannas, swamps, bogs, marshes, prairies, rivers, and forests. This setting provides an excellent opportunity for college students to gain field experience to complement their academic work.

What opportunities are available?

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore offers undergraduate and graduate students opportunities to work directly on a variety of natural resource research and management projects. Students are able to undertake short-term research and field skills development projects either during the summer or the school year.

Possible internship projects include water quality sampling, wildlife and plant monitoring, endangered species habitat improvements, prairie and wetland restoration projects, Geographic Information System projects, and many others. While internship projects typically have a research aspect, most are focused on gaining experience with on-the-ground natural resource management activities.

How much volunteer time is required?

We have internship opportunities that offer a variety of time commitments. We encourage internships that meet time requirements for course credit. Also for students that can complete a minimum of 120 hours during a semester, we will provide an internship summary. This summary describes the project, the skills gained, and our recommendations concerning further career development.

What are the benefits?

Jobs in the biological science fields are very competitive. Field experience and skills are invaluable for reaching your career goals. In addition, gaining experience now helps students focus their academic work in the future. Students will also gain an understanding of the many different careers available in the National Park Service.

What is the application deadline?

Applications are accepted at any time. However, the National Lakeshore does offer an intensive 8 week volunteer/training program during the summer (The Natural Resources Apprenticeship Program), which has an application deadline of April 15, 2005.

Can I receive course credit for my internship?

Yes, most schools offer students the opportunity to obtain college credit for completing internship projects. For information on the specific requirements you should check with your academic advisor.

Need More Information?

Contact Scott Hicks at 219-926-7561 Ext. 335 or e-mail: Scott_Hicks@nps.gov or Joy Marburger at 219-929-1388 (research internships through the Great Lakes Research and Education Center) e-mail: Joy_Marburger@nps.gov. For additional information on the natural resources of Indiana Dunes, visit our web site www.nps.gov/indu, or the Research Learning Centers website at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/learningcenters/index.shtm>.